

the art, particularly in light of the foregoing teaching. It is therefore contemplated by the appended claims to cover such modifications and incorporate those features that come within the spirit and scope of the invention.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A braking apparatus for securely positioning a mobile medical device comprising a locking mechanism for locking said mobile medical device in a desired position, a pedal connected to said locking mechanism for moving said locking mechanism between locked and unlocked positions, said locking mechanism being engaged when said pedal is in said locked position, and said locking mechanism being disengaged when said pedal is in said unlocked position, and a steering mechanism with a linkage member attached to said pedal, said steering mechanism defining a path along which said linkage member travels as said pedal is moved between said locked and unlocked positions.

2. The braking apparatus of claim 1 wherein said steering mechanism comprises a set of linking members connected to a spring-loaded plunger pin, said plunger pin being guided through a ratcheting mechanism when pressure is applied to said pedal.

3. The braking apparatus of claim 2 wherein said steering mechanism produces an audible noise to notify the user of the position of said plunger pin.

4. The braking apparatus of claim 1 wherein said steering mechanism includes a recessed guideway along which said linkage member travels, said guideway defining an intermediate position for said pedal when moving between said locked and unlocked positions.

5. The braking apparatus of claim 1 wherein said locking mechanism is a plunger assembly having a slotted piston for receiving a pin for engaging a spring located within the periphery of said plunger assembly.

6. A mobile medical apparatus comprising:

a mobile medical device;

a braking apparatus for securing said mobile medical device in a desired position;

a pedal for engaging or disengaging said braking apparatus;

5 a pedal housing connected to said medical device, said pedal housing having a shaft for connecting said pedal to said pedal housing, said shaft being connected to first and second linkage members, said first linkage members steering said pedal such that said pedal comes to rest in either a locked or unlocked position, and second linkage members for engaging or disengaging a locking mechanism in coordination
10 with said pedal being in one of said locked and unlocked position.

7. The braking apparatus of claim 6 wherein said first linkage members having a plunger pin, said plunger pin being guided through a ratcheting mechanism.

8. The braking apparatus of claim 7 wherein said plunger pin makes an audible noise to notify the user of the position of said plunger pin.

15 9. The braking apparatus of claim 6 wherein said locking mechanism includes a plunger assembly.

10. The braking apparatus of claim 9 wherein said plunger assembly has a slotted piston for receiving a pin for engaging a spring located within the periphery of said plunger assembly.